

CONFIDENTIAL

File
7163

26 October 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, CIA
THRU: Executive Director
SUBJECT: Reductions in Service Attaches Abroad
REFERENCE: JIS Memo October 24, 1949 with enclosures

The above subject has been discussed with the Director on October 26th as well as on October 5th when Stevens telephoned Childs about the same matter. As confirmed by the DCI at the Staff meeting on October 6th, this matter is the sole responsibility of the Department of Defense and its Secretary.

With regard to the three recommendations in Reference (a):

1. The DCI thinks it very unwise at this early stage to send a memo to the NSC (or to the IAC or to the Secretary of Defense) because we are not yet sure and have no concrete guidance that CIA's interests actually are adversely affected by the Secretary of Defense's instructions. In six months or so we may have evidence that can be used but at present we have only fears and suspicion that the future may be worse than the past. Furthermore, there is a regulation or Act of Congress which says that when there are no Service Attaches abroad, the Foreign Service is responsible for the collection activities which would normally be the Attaches.

2. The DCI will not now request the NSC for authority to establish overt CIA collectors abroad and has no intention of doing so in the foreseeable future. As has been stated before, under the Act and NSCIS No. 2, CIA is dependent upon the other intelligence agencies for overt collection abroad. CIA should recognize that fact, live with it, and make the best of it.

State's Division of Foreign Reporting Services (Mr. Grilley, Chief) is always glad to talk over with us our foreign collection requirements. IAD in Mr. Armstrong's office is the intermediary, but OSD might be able to "grease the wheels of progress" if there is real evidence of undue delays and delinquencies in State's meeting our legitimate requests. A man's reach should exceed his grasp, but we must be realistic and do the best we can with what is available rather than devote too much time to wishful thinking about Utopia or the Millennium.

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3. CO's activities are within the U.S. and CO's are covert abroad. If the Secretary of Defense's Instructions to reduce his Attaches abroad are found, in July 1958, to have adversely affected CIA's work, this matter will be reopened for reconsideration at that time. The intelligence agencies know their needs and their legitimate responsibilities towards CIA. If they do not meet them, we should show them wherein they fall short.

It should be remembered, however, that matters of collection are the primary responsibility of XI. Be note that the memo under discussion makes no reference to that office, either in its current report or in its proposed plans for the future.

[Redacted]
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

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cc: AD/NSI
AD/SEC

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